



EXOTIC BLOSSOM... Holding one of the beautiful, delicate epiphyllums which are now in bloom is Helen Bates, of Waveria. She grows the exotic plants in a bath house in her back yard. Beside this and the Peruvian giant pictured here, she has literally hundreds of other varieties of cacti.

Woman's Hobby Fills Big Yard

By REID BUNDY

Having a hobby that pays is one thing, but getting stuck with it is another according to one Waveria woman.

Getting stuck with her hobby is easier than most, too.

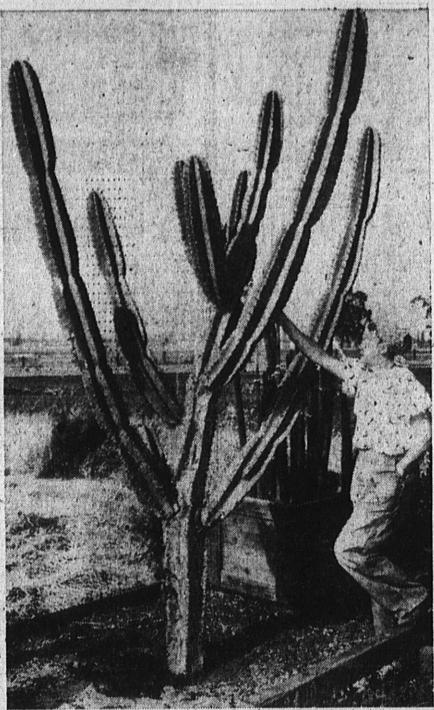
Mrs. Helen Bates, who lives at 24237 Madison street, has a yard full of cactus—little cactus, big cactus, middle-sized, rare and otherwise—you name it, she has it. In fact, she has thousands of the spiniferous things growing in nearly every square inch of her spacious yard.

Largest of the assortment is a nine-foot specimen which adorns the front yard. Called the *Cereus Peruvianus*, the giant thing of thorns is a native of Peru from where it came about 21 years ago, Mrs. Bates says.

Last year the giant cactus had between 450 and 475 blossoms on it at once, time or another. The plant is budding now and will be in bloom again in a few weeks.

Not quite so large are the exotic *Epiphyllum* which are now blooming. Bearing beautiful red blossoms, the plants are grown in a bath house in Mrs. Bates' back yard.

Other plants from all over the



PERUVIAN GIANT... That big cactus is really growing in Waveria—we didn't go to Arizona to photograph it. It is the largest of any grown by Helen Bates, proprietress of Helen's Cactus Gardens, but is by no means the only one. The cactus stands like a sentinel in the Bates' front yard.

Councilman 'Upset' Over Council Interference With Commissions

Following the appointment of three men to the Civil Service and Planning Commissions at the last council meeting, Councilman George Powell said he was "upset over the council's interference with the various commissions" and objected to the manner in which commission appointments had been made during the past several weeks.

Powell voiced his objections following appointment by Mayor Bob L. Haggard of James Hall to the Planning Commission and the appointment of Gordon Mothersell and Fred Cook to the Civil Service Commission.

Another matter of commission personnel concerning the resignation of A. D. Gianni as chairman of the Planning Commission reached a stalemate and was tabled by Mayor Haggard. The mayor asked the council to accept the resignation of Gianni. Smith told the mayor he had only to appoint a successor and Gianni's resignation would—in effect—be accomplished.

Mayor Haggard said he would not appoint a successor until the Planning Commission

special Ford sedan, the sum of \$1950.

For the purchase of a Chevrolet sedan for the Police Department, the sum of \$1850.

That the city purchase a half-ton pick-up truck and a 1½-ton stake body truck, in accordance with the bids received May 26, 1950. (From Unappropriated Reserve).

Ordered a letter sent to the State Board of Equalization opposing the opening of a beer hall near 173rd street and Crenshaw boulevard. A petition, bearing the signatures of 185 persons objecting to the establishment, was presented to the council.

That the bid of Walter Wittman, which was the low bid in the amount of \$6,335, for the construction of a storage room and office for the Recreation Department, be accepted and all other bids be rejected.

That an agreement be entered into with the Bert S. Crossland Post, No. 170, of the American Legion for the refreshment concession in the Torrance Municipal Ball Park, under the same terms as the agreement for the past year.

TRAFFIC CONTROL. That the city attorney be authorized to prepare the necessary ordinances to establish the following regulatory signs, in accordance with the recommendation of the Traffic Commission:

(a) One-way traffic on either side of El Prado avenue.

(b) That the following "Stop" signs be established: On both sections of El Prado avenue at Arlington avenue; on 234th street at Western avenue; on 236th street at Western avenue; on Calle Miradores at Calle Mayor.

The following named personnel were appointed to the positions as indicated. All appointments were made from the Civil Service eligible lists, when available, and in conformance with the recommendations of the department heads affected.

Robert E. Lamphere, truck driver, promoted to power equipment operator No. 1, to serve his probationary period, effective May 16, 1950.

Samuel F. Webb, power equipment operator No. 1, promoted to power equipment operator No. 2, to serve his probationary period, effective May 16, 1950.

Marcella J. Smith to be appointed to serve her probationary period as police matron and file clerk, effective May 24, 1950.

The following personnel were appointed as of June 19, 1950, for the Summer Recreation Program, in accordance with the recommendation of the Recreation Commission and Recreation Director: Betty Schaefer, George Whiting, Richard Leech, Doris Avis, L. Pittson, Jane Bobo, Leonard Lifton, Berthea Ballock, Ronald Cox, Eunice Bobo, Russell Williams, Jean Lancaster, Ken Kesson, Lyman Nolon, Jeannette Probert, Richard Turner and William Stanley.

Took under study a recommendation from the city manager regarding the elimination of the center parkway on Torrance boulevard.

Denied a petition of Truman

United States and Hawaii are growing in boxes, cans, and buckets on four sides of the Bates home.

"I have about 200 varieties and probably 6000 plants," Mrs. Bates told a reporter this week. Her estimate appeared to be extremely conservative.

Asked how she got started in the cactus business, Mrs. Bates said, "Oh, I just kept getting more and more of them."

She started five years ago with five plants after retiring from a Civil Service career. She now has cactus ranging from the large nine-foot plant to small "Bishop's Hats," which are no larger than a man's thumb.

An interesting place to stop on a Sunday drive, the cactus collection may be seen by visitors daily except Thursday.

Approved a petition of Horlander, Phillips and Croak for a variance and conditional permit to remodel existing buildings and establish and operate a building materials supply yard and retail store, selling a complete line of building material for the home builder, at 3401 Torrance boulevard between Madrona and Arlie avenues.

Approved the following tract maps:

1. Tract No. 13028, submitted by Truman Browne, containing 135 lots, located south of Sepulveda boulevard and directly north of Seaside School. This map was approved by the City Planning Commission on March 21, 1950, but due to the realignment of a street it was resubmitted and approved for recommendation at a post diem meeting of the Planning Commission on May 22, 1950. There are no sanitary sewers available in this district.

2. Tract No. 16700, submitted by Marvin Wagner, located at the northwesterly corner of Crenshaw boulevard, containing 434 lots. This tract was approved for recommendation at the meeting of the Planning Commission on May 2, 1950. Sanitary sewers are to be installed.

3. Tract No. 16759, presented by K. Sande Senness, located east of Madison street and south of Pacific Coast highway, containing 56 lots. Sanitary sewers will be installed in this tract.

DANGEROUS ANIMAL. The Nile crocodile is said to kill more humans than any other animal in Africa.

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